

Atty. Docket No. YOR920030043US1
(590.105)

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REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection present in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. Claims 1-3, 8-9, and 14-15 have been rewritten. Claims 16-17 are newly presented. Thus, Claims 1-17 are currently pending.

Applicants are not conceding in this application the claims amended herein are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Applicants specifically state no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1-15 have all been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to Claims 1, 8, and 15 presented herein are sufficient to overcome this rejection.

Atty. Docket No. YOR920030043US1
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Claims 2 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶1 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to these claims presented herein are sufficient to overcome this rejection.

The originally-filed claims have all been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5960397 (Rahim). All of the pending claims as amended herein now depend from (and thus incorporate the subject matter of) Claims 1, 8, and 15 to require *"ascertain[ing] an environment from which the at least one base model originated"*. (See Specification at Page 3, line 4 – Page 4, line 5, and Page 4, line 14 – Page 6, line 8.) This claimed feature is not taught or suggested by Rahim (or any other cited reference). Instead, Rahim teaches *"identifying the acoustic environment of the unknown speech"* and not the base model to which the unknown speech signal is compared. (See Rahim at Col. 3, line 57 - Col. 4, line 11 and Col. 5, lines 57-60.) In addition, new Claims 16 and 17 have been added to require *"cascading of two model levels ... for channel mismatch compensation"* which is not taught or suggested by any cited prior art reference. (See Specification at Page 4, lines 14–16.)

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus allowable. By virtue of dependence from Claims 1 and 8, it is thus also submitted that Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-17 are also allowable at this juncture.

The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicants acknowledge that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant as to have been

Atty. Docket No. YOR920030043US1
(590.105)

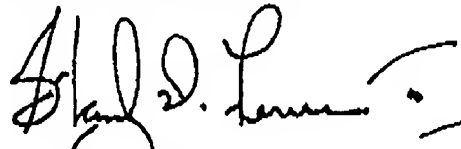
applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicants will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

Applicants wish to call the Office's attention to the fact that Applicants are concurrently herewith filing by Express Mail an Information Disclosure Statement.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-17, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited.

If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below prior to the issuance of a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanley D. Ference III
Registration No. 33,879

Customer No. 35195
FERENCE & ASSOCIATES LLC
409 Broad Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15143
(412) 741-8400
(412) 741-9292 - Facsimile

Attorneys for Applicant